RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
FEB 04 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (previously presented) A method for preparing a sample to extract RNA used in a tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer consisting of:
a) homogenizing a collected biological sample in the presence of an RNase inhibitor to prepare a suspension thereof, without separating cell components from the biological sample and
b) extracting the RNA to provide extracted RNA.

Claim 2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the collected biological sample is frozen.

Claim 3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the RNase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of (i) guanidine thiocyanate, (ii) a homogenous liquid

containing phenol and guanidine thiocyanate and (iii) a 14M solugion of guanidine salts, urea and a RNA binding resin.

Claim 4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the biological sample is feces; and the RNase inhibitor is guanidine thiocyanate.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer comprising:
a) providing extracted RNA by the method of claim 1;
b) carrying out reverse transcription on the extracted RNA from step a) to provide cDNA;
c) amplifying the cDNA from step b); and
d) detecting the amplified cDNA from step c),
wherein the tumor marker is thereby detected.

Claim 6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the tumor marker is COX-2.

Claims 7 to 12. (canceled)

Claim 13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the biological sample comprises microorganisms.

Claim 14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein in step b) whole RNA is extracted from the sample obtained from step a) without separating RNA derived from human cells from RNA derived from bacteria.

Claim 15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein in step d) amplifying the cDNA from step c) is carried out by a nested PCR.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the amplification is carried out by a PCR and a first round of the PCR is executed for 20 cycles.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the collected biological sample is frozen.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the RNase inhibition is selected from the group consisting of (i) guanidine thiocyanate, (ii) a homogenous liquid

containing phenol and guanidine thiocyanate and (iii) a 14M solution of guanidine salts, urea and a RNA binding resin.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the biological sample comprises feces.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the biological sample is frozen; the biological sample comprises feces; and the RNase inhibitor is guanidine thiocyanate.

Claim 21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the feces is human feces.

Claim 22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the feces is human feces.

Claim 23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the feces is human feces.